



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

June 14, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers
FROM: Amy S. Van Atten
Branch Chief, FSB
SUBJECT: Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area Opening

Sara Webb
FOR AMY VAN ATTEN

This memo is to provide information regarding the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area (NLS) opening and to remind you of important sea scallop sampling protocols.

The NLS may be opening soon with 1 trip per vessel allocated to the Full-Time Limited Access (FTLA) scallop vessels and 714 trips allocated to the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) scallop vessels. The NLS **DOES** have a yellowtail flounder Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and iPAQ SAP data **ARE** required for this area.

iPAQ OBSCON and SAP data **MUST** be received within 24 hours of landing and trip log data **MUST** be received within 4 business days of landing. These deadlines are crucial for the Observer Program to provide real-time monitoring data to both the Northeast Regional Office and industry members regarding yellowtail flounder bycatch.

Actual weights of both kept and discarded yellowtail flounder are imperative on these trips due to the yellowtail TAC. **Actual weights** should be obtained on observed standard hauls and cumulative **actual weights** should be obtained for deckloaded or shoveled hauls.

The SAP data required for these trips are round weights for kept and discarded yellowtail flounder and dressed weights for kept scallops on each **observed** haul.

Observed trips in the NLS are covered by the Industry Funded Scallop Program. Please refer to the information listed below for proper documentation of codes on the Vessel & Trip Log and OBSCON reporting:

Program Code – Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLS) = **201**

Contract Area Code – vessel fishing Limited Access = **046**

Contract Area Code – vessel fishing General Category = **047**

(This is the **Fleet I.D. Code** on the Vessel and Trip Log)



Vendor I.D. Code – A.I.S. Industry Funded Trip = 02
Vendor I.D. Code – E.W.T.S. Industry Funded Trip = 04

Areas of the NLS are located below the 41° 9.0' N. latitude line and vessels fishing in these areas are required to use turtle chain mats on their dredges during the time period of May 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. If a vessel you are deployed on is using a turtle chain mat be sure to confirm with the captain and document on the Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Log, and take photos.

For more information on sampling in the scallop fishery, refer to pages 16-18 and 68-72 in the NEFOP Biological Sampling Manual and pages 133-153 in the NEFOP Fisheries Observer Program Manual. Refer to the iPAQ manual for more information on recording SAP data.

ALL observers **MUST** call for a pre-briefing before being deployed on a NLS trip. Please contact Kris Tholke at (508) 495-2351 or Christopher Tholke at (508) 495-2210.

If you have additional questions regarding the opening of NLS, please contact Erin Kupcha at (508) 495-2031 office, (508) 367-8256 mobile or Erin.Kupcha@noaa.gov, or Corrin Flora at (508) 495-2188 office, (508) 560-3550 mobile or Corrin.Flora@noaa.gov.

